Mr. Speaker, this Friday marks the 1-year

anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Over 10,000 Iraqi soldiers are

dead. Thousands of Iraqi civilians are dead. Nearly 600 Americans, 600

of our sons and daughters, are dead. Thousands more have been wounded.

Physically and emotionally, their lives changed forever.

But the dead and the wounded are not the only casualties of President

Bush's decision to invade Iraq. Something else has died in those desert

sands. Something else has been lost. Truth, nothing but the truth,

honesty.

For over a year, the American people have been deceived by the words

of the President and his administration. Officials at every level have

misled the people that they were elected to serve. They have also

misled the community of nations.

We asked for truth, and President Bush told us that ``Iraq sought

significant quantities of uranium from Africa.'' We asked for truth,

and Vice President Cheney repeatedly warned us of close ties between al

Qaeda and Iraq. We asked for truth, and Secretary of State Colin Powell

told the United Nations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Where are those weapons, Mr. Speaker? We asked for truth, and President

Bush warned us that Iraq had planes that could fly weapons of mass

destruction to our shores. We asked for truth, and they told us that

our troops would be greeted as liberators, that Iraqi oil would pay to

rebuild Iraq.

The falsehoods go on and on. I do not know whether this

administration cannot stop or will not stop. I only know that they do

not stop.

Just last Sunday National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told the

American people that

Where is the truth?

Mr. Speaker, this administration would never be able to justify the

war on Iraq because we cannot believe a word they say. They have never

been honest about why we went to war. Just ask the former Treasury

Secretary, Paul O'Neill. He told the Nation this administration was

hell bent to go to war from day one, even before the President took

oath of office.

And it is not just Iraq. It is almost on every issue, every comment,

every deed. We cannot believe a word they say.

The Bush administration proposed a $550 billion Medicare prescription

drug bill and told us it will only cost $400 billion. They cut down

trees on public land and call it ``Healthy Forests.'' They let industry

pollute our air and call it ``Clear Skies.''

The President himself, President Bush, proudly told the American

people that his budget would cut the deficit in 5 years, but his budget

does not pay for Iraq. It does not pay for Afghanistan. It does not pay

for his tax cuts for the rich.

Mr. Speaker, instead of searching for weapons of mass destruction in

Iraq, we should be searching for the truth right here at home. The

Bible tells us, And we will not find

it at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. The British novelist John

Le Carre once said,

On the eve of the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, we must

reflect on these words. President Bush and his administration have

misused information. They have perverted the truth, and now 600

Americans are dead, 10,000 civilians are dead in Iraq, hundreds of

thousands of our sons and daughters, brave men and women, young people,

18, 19, 21, 23 years old, have been torn from their homes, from their

families, and sent thousands of miles from home.

I would ask the President, what are they fighting for? I would ask

him why so many of our young people are dead and wounded, but I do not

want his answer. I do not want the answer from the Vice President or

Secretary Powell or Secretary Rumsfeld. The American people do not want

more of what we have been hearing for the past year. What we want, Mr.

Speaker, and what we need more than anything else, is the truth.